Obituaries

Mrs. Lawrence Watson Sr.

Mrs. Ruth Guthrie Watson, 79, of route 3, Appomattox, died Saturday afternoon in Lynchburg General Hospital. She was the wife of Lawrence H. Watson Sr.

Born in Halifax County, she was a daughter of the late John Henry and Nancy Snead Guthrie. She was a member of Hollywood Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, Lawrence H. Watson Jr. of Alexandria; a brother, Arthur Guthrie of South Boston; a sister, Mrs. Marion Dudley of South Boston; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Monday from Hollywood Baptist Church by the Rev. Daniel W. Menser with burial in the church cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Cassandra D. Berry

Cassandra (Sandy) Daphne Berry of Spout Spring died May 24, 1980.

She is survived by her father, Milton A. Berry, and mother, W. Rebecca Berry, of Appomattox; a brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin R. M. Berry of Appomattox; a sister, Patricia B. Cox of Lynchburg; a brother-in-law, Calvin A. Cox, Sr. of Lynchburg; a nephew; four nieces and an host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Thursday in Mount Airy Baptist Church, Appomattox. Interment was in the family cemetery with the Rev. Henry W. Pryor officiating.

West Funeral Home of Appomattox was in charge of arrangements.

Elijah W. Farrar

EVERGREEN - Elijah Walker Farrar, 77, of Evergreen, died at 4:45 p.m. Monday in Lynchburg General Hospital. Born in Appomattox County, he was a son of the late Willie Farrar and Nora Lee Farrar.

A retired employee of the Norfolk & Western Railway, he was a member of Evergreen Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Fannie Sarver Farrar; a daughter, Mrs. Patsy Farrar Willis of Connecticut; a son, Charles Farrar of North Carolina, and three brothers, Ernest Farrar of Pamplin, George Farrar of Appomattox, and Bernard Farrar of Florida.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday from Robinson Funeral Home by the Revs. R.C. Worley, Jerry Pugh and Norman Heddings. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Mrs. Lucy Cole

Mrs. Lucy Cole, a former resident of Appomattox, died Monday, June 2, in Jackson, Mississippi.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday in Bloxie, Mississippi.

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Church nears completion

By GLORIA DAY

A great sense of excitement fills the air here at Appomattox Baptist Temple as that long awaited day finally nears for us to occupy own newly constructed church building. New classrooms and much needed room for our people and welcome visitors will now be available to our needs. We just praise the Lord for His goodnessin giving us our lovely new building on Route 727, just beyond Appomattox High School.

Our Pastor, Ron Gallagher, has named June as Family Life Month at Appomattox Baptist Temple Each service during the month of June will have the emphasis placed on building successful families. To start things off Dr. Harodl McNabb is with us this first week of June to conduct a nightly Family Seminar. Monday nights topic was communication, Tuesday discipline, Wednesday two sessions for men only The man's role in the home by Dr. McNabb for women only by Mrs. McNabb The woman's role in the family. Thursday will be on the christian home with a question and answer session and Friday will be The Family Altar. Mark your calendar and attend every night.

The Ladies Fellowship presented Patrick Henry Boys Plantation a money order in the amount of $87.40 which was the amount of proceeds on a bake sale we had in their honor. We wish to thank all of you who participated in any way as the Boys Home is doing a great work for the Lord as well as those precious boys.

Last Tuesday night the Ladies Fellowship paid their monthly visit to Babock Manor. Edith McCann brought a very inspiring devotion message and Peggy Gallagher baked a lovely cake for them. Refreshments were served and as always the blessing was ours.

Our next Ladies Fellowship meeting will be on June 10 in the home of Edith McCann. All ladies are invited.

We are proud of Jim and Sue Bitner and Dewey and Ann Woods for the love and dedication they've shown our teens in wroking with the Thursday night Word of Life Club. All the teens look forward to an evening of fun and games followed with Bible Study and refreshments. Teens come out and join the fun.

A busy summer lies ahead with plenty of excitement for everyone as we work and serve together for the cause of Christ, our Lord and Saviour. God bless each of you.

Verse for the week: Matthew 6:33 Bust seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteous; and all these things shall be added unto you.

(Editor's note: In last week's paper, a photo of the Friendship Baptist Church was inadvertantly run with the caption regarding the Appomattox Baptist Temple. Below is the proper photo. We apologize for the error).

APPOMATTOX RESIDENTS may have noticed some changes in the landscape on Route 727 at its junction with route 604. There has been extensive reshaping there in recent weeks to make way for the new Appomattox Baptist Temple, which is nearing completion. The congregation will soon be moving from their present location on Church Street where they have been meeting for approximately six years. The new building is located on a six-acre tract on 727. According to pastor, the Rev. Ronald L. Gallagher, the congregation should be ready for their first service in the new building by June 8. Construction began in October of last year. The new building will house Sunday School and worship areas until additional space is needed. This structure is the first stage of a projected three-stage master plan to be implemented over the next two years, as the growth of the congregation dictates.

Rice receives BS degree

Philip Wayne Rice, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Rice, Jr., of Pamplin, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Bluefield College in graduation ceremonies held May 24.

He was one of 40 students receiving a baccalaureate degree. Thirty-two students received Associate's degrees at the event.

Senator John Warner of Virginia was the commencement speaker for the event.

Safety tip

When driving across county lines, or from one state to another, be alert for changes in the type of road surface. During wet weather differences can have a significant effect on your driving, warns the Virginia Department of Transportation Safety.

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VOLUME 89-NUMBER 24

APPOMATTOX, (VA.)-TIMES-VIRGINIAN-JUNE 12, 1980

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Cable representative promises improvements

Complaints about the quality of cable television service in Appomattox prompted an appearance by Herman H. Deimler of Arco, Inc. at Monday's meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Deimler said that Arco, Inc., the company with the contract for providing cable television service in town, is currently working on resolving difficulties with cable television reception and service in Appomattox.

Deimler said he had interviewed a number of customers in town following recent complaints, and found that they were not satisfied with the channels offered on the local cable. He noted that the most frequent complaints involve too much repetition of viewing material, and unsatisfactory signal reception of several channels offered.

He noted that there have been complaints about the availability of service when the system malfunctions, as well.

Deimler said he is planning to change the stations piped in on the cable. He said he will do away with some of the repetition, and seek more variety for the local customers.

Deimler also requested and got a variance in his contract which will allow a serviceman to be located outside town who can be contacted 24-hours a day in the event of equipment failure. He noted that under the current arrangement, service calls are channeled through a local electronics business, which closes at 5 p.m., so equipment failures which occur after that time are not serviced until the next day.

Council agreed to a 90-day contract alteration, after which the contract would be either renewed or cancelled.

In other business, the councilmen voted to prepare a full application for an $800,000 Farmers Home Administration loan, to cover local costs in building a new municipal sewer system.

Terms of the loan, if the application is accepted, are payment at 5 percent interest over a period of 40 years.

In other business, council voted to seek bids for trash-collection service in town, to see if contracted trash-collection service would cost less than the town service currently provided.

Council also voted to enact a bank franchise tax to protect the town from liability in collecting taxes from bank franchises, and voted to amend a portion of the town code to allow for a standing police committee.

THE APPOMATTOX MAYOR and council members were sworn in for the coming term at Monday night's meeting. Barbara Williams, clerk of the circuit court, inducted the town fathers. Here she is shown administering the oath to Mayor Ronald C. Spiggle. Council members sworn in include Richard L. Bass, W. H. Carson, Thomas E. "Sonny" Conner, Robert C. Hubbard, Thomas W. Lawson, and Raymond N. Noble.

WILLIS CARTER uses a drip torch to ignite a prescribed burn, as he walks the perimeter of the burn area on a freshly cleared fire-line path. Carter and seven other men were on hand near Vera last Thursday to burn a tract of approximately 50 acres owned by a lumber company. Such fires will be common place this summer, as the state Division of Forestry alone is planning to burn approximately 1,000 acres. Private firms such as Westvaco and Continental Can conduct the burns on their land, as well (Photo by Bill Sherrod).

Burning a path for new forests

By BILL SHERROD

Many residents of Appomattox noticed a large, black column of smoke rising high into the air north of town last Thursday.

The source of that spectacle was a "prescribed burn" being conducted on approximately 50 acres of land owned by the R.S. Burrus Lumber Company of Pamplin. The land being treated is just off Route 24 near Vera.

The burn, which was executed by the state Division of Forestry, is a common practice in forest management.

According to Wayne Bowman and David Smith of the local division office, such burns are beneficial to the land in that they open up new territory for future harvests of valuable timber, and they are beneficial to wildlife in that they provide variations in habitat and available forage.

The practice of controlled burning has been honed down to a fine science, according to the foresters.

Ideal burning conditions must exist before a controlled burn is attempted. The day must be sunny, or the material in the area will not properly burn.

Humidity must be low, 45 percent or less, before the fire will spread properly.

And, of course, the wind must be right, so that smoke does not become a problem for nearby houses, and the fire can be contained within the fire lines.

All of these factors came together Thursday, and at about 12:30 p.m. a crew from the Division of Forestry set out to conduct the prescribed burn.

The effort actualy began several months ago, when the area to be burned was thinned out and the fire lines were cut.

All the usuable timber was removed from the area, the larger trees which can be used as saw timber, pulp wood or fire wood.

Then, a bulldozer or a fireplow was used to cut the fire lines, which are paths about four or six feet wide running around the perimeter of the area to be burned.

Naturally, the material in the area to be burned must be aged or matured before the burning starts.

Thursday's burn involved a crew of eight men. The fire is started in strategic points after all conditions which may affect the burn – such as wind and types of wood in the burn area – are taken into account.

The actual ignition is achieved using a "drip torch" which releases a mixture of gasoline and kerosene. The workers walk along the fire lines lighting areas which they have determined will contribute to the most efficient fire.

While the fire is being started and after it is in full involvement, the crew checks the fire line to be sure that no flames get out of the prescribed-burn area. Thursday, while two men lit the fires, the other six were stationed around the perimeter of the burning area with backpack tanks (water cans with spray hoses) to contain the fire.

And, there is always a bulldozer on hand in case a larger fire might start outside the fire lines.

The heat generated by the controlled burns is intense. Great amounts of air are sucked up by the conflagration, and the leaves of trees near the blaze can be seen whipping in the artificial wind.

The crew stays away from the intense heat as much as possible, but still, they usually experience some discomfort while working the burn. "Sometimes it gets hot enough to singe the hair on your arms," notes Bowman.

In most cases, the fire burns itself out quickly. Thursday's fire was done by 5:30, although it was checked by a man in Vera later that night and again the next day. Smith adds that the area was checked once again Sunday when the wind rose, since the ground holds the heat for some time following a controlled burn.

From here, the land will lay fallow for some time, then, probably around next March, will be planted with young pines. Within 30-40 years, the land will have provided two pulpwood trimmings and one final saw timber harvest, according to Bowman.

THE LEAVES ON THE FEW remaining trees in a cut-over area by the artificial wind which is created by the intense heat of the fire. The black smoke seen here is caused by the chemicals in pines which are being consumed in the conflagration. (Photo by Bill Sherrod).

Supervisors meet Friday

The Appomattox County Board of Supervisors will meet in regular session Friday beginning at 10 a.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the County Courthouse complex.

Hal Craddock of Architectural Partners, Inc., will be present for the afternoon session to discuss the new county jail which the supervisors voted to proceed with at their last regular monthly meeting.

Also present at the afternoon session will be Bobby Waddell, appearing on behalf of the Young Farmers Association. The supervisors will also vote on adopting the proposed bank franchise tax in the afternoon session.

The morning session will consist of regular reports from the highway department, the county building inspector, and the superintendent of schools.

Also in the morning session, local attorney Robert Carter will appear before the board to request a variance in the subdivision ordinance for a parcel of land in the Southside District. The supervisors will also hear a presentation by Dick Burke on behalf of the J. A. Burke Insurance Company regarding liability insurance for public officials.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Hi. Greetings from Martha Street in Historic Appomatox. Let's take a look-see at the old note pad...

• • •

Fair warning. This week has a Friday the thirteenth. No time to take unnecessary chances, walk under ladders or trail black cats. Think it will be the last Friday the thirteenth this year.

• • •

With the school session ended, there is a difference in traffic patterns. Miss the school buses and there are fewer tie-ups and waiting in line. Actually, I miss the school traffic and it was a vital part of the day. And we still have, fortunately, lots of traffic of folks going to and from work, and shopping.

Item: Football seems a long way off, but the Washington Redskins open training camp July 19, and that is only a bit over five weeks away.

• • •

Ever look at town street signs? One of our finest streets is Oakleigh. Starts at its intersection with Church St., and the sign says Oakleigh. Passes the Presbyterian church and then crosses Rt. 460 or Confederate Blvd. and the sign says Oakleigh. Another street sign at its corner with Patricia Ann. But when Oakleigh reaches its corner with Martha Street, the street sign says "Oakley." And a bit beyond it becomes Rt. 631.

• • •

For several years many of us have admired the plantings of marigolds along walkways at the Appomattox Middle School. So many of them and we salute those responsible. I checked and there are two varieties: Dolly and First Lady.

• • •

Item: Between my parked car and my post office box, I was greeted by three friends. One said, "Father Darkleaf." Another said, "Hello, Calvin." And another, "Good Morning, Mr. Robinson." Which did I prefer? Don't be silly, all of them. Just so they do not pass me by or say, "I remember your face but not your name."

• • •

It is claimed that one way to bring on rain is to wash your car. There may be other ways. Noting that several tomato plants looked puny, I bestirred myself and toted two watering pails to the garden. A sudden shower made the effort unnecessary. I needed that. So did the plants.

• • •

What do men talk about while waiting in a barber shop? I lingered awhile in a local shop recently and the topic was the passing of the men's pocket watch and that modern men's wear does not provide a watch pocket. Everyone wears a wrist watch. All present joined in the conversation. One recalled the watch pocket on overalls and a buttonhole so you could tie the watch in and it wouldn't slip out when stooping. Another recalled the famous one dollar Ingersoll watch, keywinders and "railroad" watches, watch chains and watch fobs. And in Appomattox, when you talk about watches, someone always mentions the late Sam Jones, a fine gentleman who was already ready for a trade. I thought it was a most pleasant and interesting conversation. Anyone still have an Illinois pocket watch?

• • •

I keep a record of thermometer readings, taking same at 7 a.m. As a diversion, will start afternoon records to decide the hottest hour of the average day. A pre-guess....4 p.m.

Thanks for reading and helping me whittle down on the note pad. Seeya around.

Bloodmobile visit set

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Appomattox this coming Monday, June 16.

The mobile unit will be set up at Liberty Baptist Church from noon until 6 p.m. for local residents wishing to donate blood.

The quota for Appomattox County will be 100 units of blood during this visit of the Bloodmobile.

Lions meet tonight

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet tonight (Thursday) at 6:45 in the John Mosby Inn Restaurant.

The featured speakers for the meeting will be Virginia Babcock of the Appomattox Department of Social Services and an assistant.

She will lead a general discussion about the variety of services her agency is responsible for in Appomattox County.

STUDENTS AT APPOMATTOX PRIMARY SCHOOL saw out the end of the school year with grim determination. Shortly before school closed, the entire student body participated in a "Field Day" festival, which included a balloon launch, school-wide picnic, and various athletic events, such as the tug-o-war. A variety of emotions are expressed on the faces of these students as they strive to overcome their opponents in the tug-o-war competition (Photo by Bill Sherrod).